

## January 12, 2007 - Democratic-Led Rules Committee Is Called to Order for the First Time

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Democratic-Led Rules Committee Is Called to Order for the First Time  
All Five New Members Have Now Been Appointed

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today accepted the gavel from Rep. David Dreier as the House Rules Committee was called to order for the first time.

The new Democratic roster of Rules Committee members was also finalized. The Members are Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-CA-18), Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT-AL), Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL-11), Rep. Michael Arcuri (D-NY-24), and Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH-13).

"It is an honor to accept the gavel from a Rules Committee Chairman as distinguished as Rep. Dreier," Chairwoman Slaughter said. "I look forward to working together with him in the months and years ahead to make the House of Representatives a place of fair debate and open deliberation."

"This is an important body, one charged with upholding the standards of our House and ensuring that the will of the American people is done here," Rep. Slaughter said, addressing the Committee's new Democratic Members. "It is a big

responsibility, but I know that we are ready for it."

"As the new Chairman of the Rules Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, I am thrilled to be a part of the historic selection of Louise Slaughter as the first woman to head the House's most powerful committee," said Rep. Alcee Hastings. "I look forward to my work with the Chairwoman and the other distinguished Members of the Rules Committee to both insure that House truly reflects the voices of all Americans and to advance the agenda of the people of South Florida and throughout this great land."

"It is a tremendous honor for me to serve on the Rules Committee in the seat once held by legends like Joe Moakley and Tip O'Neill," Rep. Jim McGovern, Vice-Chairman of the Rules Committee, said. "I am looking forward to working with Chairwoman Slaughter and all my colleagues - Democrat and Republican - to advance our agenda in a more open, fair and civil way."

"I look forward to the coming year and am hopeful that a spirit of bipartisanship and collegiality can return to this Committee," added Congresswoman Doris Matsui. "Working together, we will address the priorities of the American people."

"It is an honor to join this prestigious committee," said Rep. Cardoza. "Serving on the Rules Committee - the gateway for legislation brought before the House - is a great responsibility. I look forward to working with Chairwoman Slaughter and all members of the committee to take our country in a new direction."

"I look forward to serving on this committee and working with the Speaker and Chairwoman Slaughter to help take this country in a new direction," said Rep. Peter Welch. "I intend to be a vigorous and clear voice for a return to civility in Congress to allow us to make the progress and reforms Americans expect."

"I'm proud to have been appointed to the Rules Committee by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to serve under chair Louise M. Slaughter, two women who have led the way for the rest of us," said Rep. Kathy Castor. "This leadership position will allow me to be the member of Congress I want to be, working hard in Washington on issues like affordable healthcare and education that are important to my neighbors in Tampa Bay."

"I am so honored to be a part of such a prestigious committee," Rep. Arcuri said. "And I'm so excited to serve under the leadership our distinguished chairwoman Ms. Slaughter, and follow in the footsteps of an array of distinguished New York members who also served on the Rules Committee."

"I am looking forward to a productive year on the Rules Committee and building on the success of the 100 hours agenda," Rep. Sutton said. "It is an honor to be part of such a dedicated and gifted group of members on this committee, and we look to work for the change voters this past November demanded from Congress. The time has come to pass legislation that improves the lives of all Americans."

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